

House Republican Press Release

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**Rep. Winkler to Receive Department of Public Health Award**



*Honor Recognizes Legislator's Commitment to  
Groton Water Issues*

HARTFORD-On Monday, May 10, State Representative Lenny Winkler, R-Groton, will receive the state Department of Public Health Drinking Water Division's (DPH) Drinking Water Stewardship Award. Rep. Winkler will be the inaugural recipient of the award, given to deserving individuals, organizations or groups that demonstrate outstanding dedication and efforts toward the protection of drinking water.

The award will be presented at the Mystic Marriott in Groton. Groton Utilities and Lawrence and Memorial Hospital will also receive awards at the ceremony. In 2003, Rep. Winkler served as the key sponsor to legislation that allowed Lawrence and Memorial Hospital to build its Pequot Outpatient Surgery Center on what is classified as watershed property, while ensuring the protection of the watershed.

"It was a pleasure working with Lenny on this issue," said Dr. Gerald Iwan, Director of the DPH Drinking Water Division. "Through legislation, she was able to find a solution that allowed the hospital to move forward without any harm to the environment and the drinking water we were trying to protect. Her knowledge and ability to network with community, water company and hospital were invaluable."

In fact, Rep. Winkler has a lengthy history of supporting potable water issues in Groton and throughout the State of Connecticut. Through legislation, she secured the transfer of former Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority property to Groton Utilities, ensuring a safe, dependable water supply for the surrounding community. Rep. Winkler also secured state bond funding to install concrete barriers on Interstate 95 from Groton Reservoir Bridge to North Road. The barriers, which are currently being installed, will protect the local water supply from being contaminated by motor vehicle accidents.

In addition, Rep. Winkler served as the primary sponsor of legislation that requires small water companies to report elevated levels of copper and other harmful elements in water supplies. The legislation was introduced to prevent incidents similar to one that resulted in the death of a Connecticut child from elevated levels of copper in a public water supply. Rep. Winkler has long been an advocate for merging the state's more than 800

small water companies with larger entities to ensure the highest quality drinking water for state residents.

“I was extremely pleased to receive the letter from DPH notifying me of this award,” said Rep. Winkler. “Protecting water quality has always been a priority for me and it’s been gratifying to have number of key pieces of legislation in this area approved. I look forward to continuing to working on quality issues in the future.”